

benefits to American consumers as quickly as possible."

Other significant improvements to economic growth obtain to the economy in this scenario in addition to the employment gains. Real Gross Domestic Product [GDP] is \$298 billion higher growing 0.5 percent faster on average over the 10-year period and the change in policy assumed in the scenario generates more than \$900 billion more real disposable income. The balance of trade improves \$14 billion due to lower domestic inflation and strengthened U.S. global competitiveness. The Federal budget deficit improves by more than \$140 billion over the next decades as higher incomes boost tax revenues. Other indicators of economywide growth show dramatic increases in automobile sales and housing starts and curbing or downward pressure on consumer price inflation and long-term interest rates.

Consumers benefit tremendously under the WEFA Group study scenario of full, immediate, and simultaneous competition in all communications markets. With this change in policy, over the 10-year period, consumers reap nearly \$550 billion in savings from the increased competition and the lower prices it generates compared to the baseline scenario and the continuation of the status quo in telecommunications policy. The \$550 billion in consumer savings is spread across all communications markets. More competition in the long-distance market produces \$333 billion in consumer savings from lower rates. More competition in the cellular market yields \$107 billion in consumer savings from lower rates. More competition in the local exchange market for telephone service picks up another \$32 billion in consumer savings from lower rates.

WEFA Group compared the full, immediate, and simultaneous competition scenario with two other scenarios that would have delayed the introduction of full competition in all communications markets for 3- and 5-year periods, respectively. The cost of delay and staggered competition to the economy and to consumers, as estimated by the WEFA Group, are quite significant. Furthermore, this realization underscores the importance of Congress acting now to change and reform the Nation's telecommunications laws but in so doing avoid the delay of full competition. For example, the 3- and 5-year delay scenarios create 1.5 million and 1.9 million fewer jobs, respectively, than are created in the full, immediate, and simultaneous competition scenario over the same time period. WEFA also found that every year of delay in the introduction of full competition in communications markets costs consumers \$55 billion in lost savings in telecommunications services and \$40 billion in lost savings on long-distance rates.

The WEFA Group study findings are in keeping with earlier studies undertaken in this area, for example the study during the last Congress by the President's Council of Economic Advisors, which confirm large gains to consumer welfare and economic growth from the unleashing of restrained competition in telecommunications markets. Those of us in the Congress who are about to take up telecommunications reform legislation should be guided and instructed by the essential findings of the recent WEFA Group study, that is, the Nation's economy and consumers would fare best with a change in policy that produced competition now in all communications markets. Continuation of the current telecommunications policy or a change of policy that pro-

duced more regulatory barriers, delay, and uncertainty would not be in the best interest of consumer welfare and economic growth. There are some interests who are pushing Congress to, in fact, stagger, delay, or sequence competition in various telecommunications markets. However, if you listen very carefully to the proponents of this argument, you will note that the markets they serve today would be the last to face the new competition, if ever, under their proposal. We need to enact legislation that gives all players a fair and equal opportunity to compete in any market they choose to enter and, therefore, need to eliminate these lines-of-business restrictions on the Bell companies as soon as possible.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I include remarks from several Wall Street analysts who dispute the notion that there is real price competition in the long-distance telephone marketplace—a key finding of the WEFA study.

STATEMENT OF MORTON BAHR, PRESIDENT, COMMUNICATIONS WORKERS OF AMERICA, ON THE WEFA GROUP STUDY ON COMMUNICATIONS COMPETITION

WASHINGTON, DC.—The recently released study on communications competition by the WEFA Group confirms what we in CWA have known for years—that delaying full competition in the communications marketplace is costing America hundreds of thousands of jobs every year.

Congress tried to pass legislation last year that would have deregulated markets and created jobs. The opportunity is at hand again and it's time we get it right, because every year we delay is another year of lost jobs and lost consumer benefits.

CWA recognizes that competition will ultimately mean a boom in new services and new industries, and an explosion in jobs in every state and every industry in the country. That's why we support the deregulation of America's telecommunications markets as soon as possible.

America shouldn't have to wait for Information Age benefits when communications workers are ready to build the infrastructure now. We applaud any legislation that will bring jobs to communications workers and benefits to American consumers as quickly as possible. Full competition will do that, delayed completion won't.

THE VIEW FROM WALL STREET: COMPETITION IN THE LONG DISTANCE TELEPHONE MARKET

AT&T and its rivals are pushing some prices up after almost 10 years of steady discounting. This gives AT&T more room to grow profits, and it creates an umbrella over MCI and Sprint, allowing them to raise prices, too.—Kenneth Leon, Bear Stearns, 10/20/92.

AT&T, MCI, and Sprint all have high-quality earnings because they operate in a stable, oligopolistic industry * * * without serious price competition. [T]he only real threat [is] posed by the Regional phone companies which are unlikely to gain regulatory freedom to enter this business for at least 3-5 years.—Philip A. Managieri, Cowen, 8/23/93.

Margins improved for all four [long distance] carriers, reflecting an impact from price increases and steady declines in access costs.—Daniel P. Reingold and Richard C. Toole, Merrill Lynch, 2/10/94.

The combination of a cozy oligopoly that wishes to avoid price wars and falling operating expenses primarily due to [exchange] access cost reductions is an unbeatable environment in which to do business.—Timothy N. Weller and Nick Frelinghuysen, Donaldson, Lufkin & Jenrette, 6/1/94.

The long distance industry is one of today's premier growth industries. Where else

can you find: (1) double-digit unit volume growth, (2) declining unit costs, on a nominal as well as real basis, (3) a \$10 billion barrier to entry, (4) a benign, stable oligopoly where the price leader [AT&T] is looking to generate cash to fund other ventures, and (5) a prohibition on competition * * * It is rare to see a full-fledged price war in an oligopolistic market, witness soft drinks. The same holds true in the long distance market.—G.W. Woodlief and E. Struminger, Dean Witter, 10/28/94.

Many investors still seem to believe that there has been some sort of "price war" among the major interexchange carriers. The fact is that although interstate telephone rates have come down by about 50% over the past decade, the entire decline has been "funded" by decreases in the amounts paid by interexchange carriers to the local exchange carriers for "access."—John Bain, Raymond James & Assoc., 1/12/95.

Overall, MCI's new Friends & Family program looks like just another round of discounting funded by previously announced increases in the base rates. By focusing on the discount instead of the rate, the industry has been able to quietly raise base rates while spending millions of dollars promoting ever-increasing discounts.—D. Reingold and M. Kastan, Merrill Lynch, 1/20/95.

Regardless of your carrier, you are paying higher and higher rates if you are among the tens of millions of Americans who have not signed up for a discount calling plan. The person paying the retail rate is bearing the disproportionate burden. And these are probably the people who can't afford to make a lot of phone calls and therefore [do not] qualify for those cheaper plans.—D. Briere, TeleChoice Inc., 1/21/95.

AT&T now has the same revenues as the entire Bell system just before the break up in 1984, when they spun off about 85 percent of their assets.—John Bain, Raymond James & Assoc., 1/24/95.

MCI . . . filed for a 3.9% across-the-board rate increase. We fully expect AT&T, Sprint, and the second tier carriers to follow suit. This move by MCI is extremely bullish for the long distance stocks since it sends a clear message to the investment community that the long distance industry will practice 'safe pricing' which will lead to stable revenue per minute trends.—Jack B. Grubman, Salomon Brothers, 2/6/95.

A TRIBUTE TO THE ORKAND CORPORATION

HON. CONSTANCE A. MORELLA

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the Orkand Corp., with headquarters in Silver Spring, MD, on the occasion of the company's 25th anniversary. Over the past quarter of a century, Orkand has grown from 2 to 2000 employees and is a leader in the high technology market.

The company has a long history of service to the Federal Government. More recently, the Orkand Corp. has begun serving the private sector, most notably healthcare researchers. The company has enhanced the critical work performed by several Federal agencies, including the Departments of Energy, Housing and Urban Development, Labor, State, the U.S. Postal Service and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Company's founder and president, Dr. Donald S. Orkand, is an individualist, a man who believes in equal opportunity for all men and women. On the occasion of the company's milestone anniversary, Dr. Orkand has taken the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the past and to launch his company's plans to deliver its unique brand of client-centered information into the 21st century. I am proud to pay tribute to the Orkand Corp., and I am honored to add my voice to the praises of the many friends and colleagues who gather to salute Dr. Donald Orkand and his outstanding company.

“BE YOUR BEST DAY”

HON. DEBORAH PRYCE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to applaud the efforts of our Nation's Girl Scouts and the activities that they took part in as part of Be Your Best Day on March 14, 1995.

On this day, Girl Scouts across the country encouraged people of all ages and walks of life to improve themselves, help a friend, or better their community.

I would particularly like to submit for the RECORD the activities of several Girl Scout troops in Columbus, OH:

Eighty girls participated in conducting science experiments on the Darby Creek, a National Scenic River, to determine the kinds of service projects they will need to maintain its pristine condition.

Approximately 50 girls participated in an I'm Safe, Alert and Alive program that enabled them to take the information and share it with young girls.

Brownie Girl Scouts, age 6 to 8, participated in dancercize, an activity that taught them how to remain fit through dancing.

Fifty girls participated in a 1-day seminar on health and fitness, focusing on basic nutrition and fitness techniques. Junior Girl Scouts were paired with Brownie Girl Scouts to share the information with them.

Two Girl Scouts troops collected food and clothing items and donated them to a social service agency for distribution.

Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts participated in a computer basics course to learn more about technology and to encourage them to pursue math and science curricula.

Several Girl Scout troops filled out pledge cards to be their best on that day and to emphasize community service throughout the year.

Mr. Speaker, as a former Girl Scout myself, I would like to commend these Scouts for their efforts. They are true examples of young women dedicated to improving their own lives and making their communities better places to live.

SEAL OF OHIO GIRL SCOUT
COUNCIL, INC.,

Columbus, OH, March 1, 1995.

Memo To: Deb Fiddelke, Ass't. to U.S. Representative Deborah Pryce
From: Donna Hughes, Public Relations Director

Re: Be Your Best Day activities in Columbus

Below are some of the activities Girl Scout troops in Seal of Ohio Girl Council have planned to do for Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.'s BE YOUR BEST DAY, Tuesday, March 14 or during Girl Scout Week, March 12-18.

1. 80 girls will participate in conducting science experiments on the Darby Creek, a National Scenic River, to determine the kinds of service projects they will need to establish to maintain its pristine condition.

2. Approximately 50 girls will participate in a "I'm Safe, Alert and Alive" program that will enable them to take the information and share it with younger girls.

3. Brownie Girl Scouts, ages 6-8, will participate in Dancercize, an activity that will teach them how to remain fit through dancing. This also enables them to earn a Try-It badge.

4. Scheduled later in the week, primarily due to time, 50 girls will participate in a one-day seminar on health and fitness. It will focus on basic nutrition and fitness techniques. The Junior Girl Scouts will then be paired with Brownie Girl Scouts to share the information with them.

5. Two troops are collecting food and clothing items to donate to a social service agency to distribute to clients.

6. Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts are participating in Computer Basics to learn more about the technology and how it can help them in school by encouraging them to pursue math and science curricula.

7. Troops are filling out pledge cards they have designed, pledging to be their best on March 14 and to put an increase emphasis on community service throughout the year.

The main thrust behind Be Your Best Day is to highlight the values of Girl Scouts and raise the visibility of the kind of contemporary issues Girl Scouts are confronting on a daily basis, and to get the community involved with Girl Scouts to address some of these concerns. If you need additional information about Be Your Best Day, do not hesitate to call.

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A.,

Washington, DC, February 21, 1995.

Hon. DEBORAH PRYCE,

U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN PRYCE: As a woman who has risen to the top in government because of your commitment to contemporary issues, you have shown how important it is for people to pull together and make their community a better place to live.

We would like to invite you to help us call other Americans to action on March 14, 1995. The event is "Girl Scouts' Be Your Best Day." On that day we are encouraging people—children, teens, adults and senior citizens to improve themselves, help a friend or better the community.

In the spirit of the day, we would like you to get involved, perhaps in your hometown, either individually working with a special cause, or with a local Girl Scouts troop. Should you not be with your constituents on that day, perhaps you would consider joining Girl Scouts in our nation's capital who will be participating in a series of very special activities, including an intergenerational aerobics workout program.

We hope you will join us on "Girl Scouts' Be Your Best Day," and would like to assure you that you do not need to make a major time commitment. We will be alerting the media about people's involvement in this day. Even half an hour of your time, whether it be speaking out to an important issue or promising to adhere to a personal resolution will help increase visibility for the hundreds of volunteers across the United States who will be participating that day.

Sincerely,

B. LARAE ORULLIAN,
National President.

CONGRESSIONAL REFORM

HON. LEE H. HAMILTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 1995

Mr. HAMILTON. Mr. Speaker, I would like to insert my Washington Report for Wednesday, March 22, 1995, into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

IMPROVING CONGRESSIONAL REFORM EFFORTS

The House got off to a good start this session by passing a series of internal reforms aimed at making the institution more open, efficient, and accountable. Yet in some ways the reforms are not working as well as expected. We need to revisit the changes made, as well as expand the scope of our reform effort into new areas.

Procedural reforms: On the first day of the 104th Congress, the House passed several procedural reforms—including measures to open up floor procedures, simplify the committee structure, and require Congress to comply with the same laws it passes for everyone else. These will not revolutionize the House, but they do move us in the right direction. Many were based on the work of last session's Joint Committee on the Organization of Congress. Yet there is some disappointment about the overall impact of the reforms. In many ways the House is less open and deliberative than it was last session.

A central theme of the reforms was to improve the work of congressional committees, since that is where the real work of Congress takes place. Yet the effectiveness of the committee reforms—reducing Members' committee assignments, banning proxy voting, and opening up committees further to the public—has been undermined by the new leadership's desire to pass key legislation within 100 days. The new congressional compliance bill, for example, passed the House without a single day of consideration by a House committee, even though much of the language was entirely new. No committee hearings were held on the highly complex unfunded mandates bill and only cursory hearings were held on the crime bills. Passing reforms to ban proxy voting or to open up committee deliberations makes little difference if an important bill simply bypasses the committee.

Another major reform was the promise by the new leadership to open up floor proceedings by allowing Members more opportunities to offer amendments. Yet this has simply not happened for several key bills. Many bills—from congressional compliance to the balanced budget amendment—came to the floor with limited or no opportunity for Members to amend them. The spending cut bill considered by the House last week put four-fifths of discretionary spending off limits to amendments—only those areas the committee wanted cut could be cut. It is unrealistic to expect every bill to come to the floor under open rules. That would be too unwieldy, and most Members recognize that. What is needed is that we have generous enough rules so Members can vote on the major policy issues on a particular bill; and that has not happened several times this year.

Rushing legislation through leads to mistakes. Sometimes we need to slow down to do things right and to make sure that all voices have been heard. We need a balance. The pace of legislation is important to the work product—too slow and the result is gridlock, too fast and the result is mistakes and unintended consequences.

Hearings are expected this summer on how well the new reforms are working. That is